

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A lamp socket mounted on a lamp unit body and connected to another lamp socket together through wires, the lamp socket comprising:

a socket body;

a connector housing for accommodating a connector provided to the socket body;

a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and

a monolithic terminal member within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires ~~are electrically directly connected to the terminal member.~~

2. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 1, wherein the socket body comprises a wire connection portion for electrically connecting the terminal member to the at least one of the wires.

3. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 2,
wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted; and

the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of

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the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

4. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 3, wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting blade and the male tab.

5. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 3, wherein the wire insertion groove comprises opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

6. (currently amended): A socket assembly comprising:

- a lamp unit body; and
- a plurality of lamp sockets mounted on the lamp unit body and connected together through wires, each of the plurality of lamp sockets comprising:
 - a socket body;
 - a connector housing for accommodating a connector to the socket body,
 - a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and
 - a monolithic terminal member within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires ~~are electrically directly connected to the terminal member~~;

wherein the plurality of lamp sockets are electrically connected together through the wires connected to the terminal members.

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7. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of lamp sockets are connected to one another by wires of different lengths.

8. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 6, wherein the socket body comprises a wire connection portion for electrically connecting the terminal member to the at least one of the wires.

9. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 8, wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted; and

the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

10. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 9, wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting blade and the male tab.

11. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 9, wherein the wire insertion groove comprises opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (new): A socket assembly comprising:

a lamp unit body; and

a plurality of lamp sockets mounted on the lamp unit body and electrically connected together through wires, each of the plurality of lamp sockets comprising;

a socket body including a wire connection portion;

a connector housing for accommodating a connector to the socket body,

a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and

a terminal member provided within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires;

wherein the terminal includes two ends, one end including a press-connecting portion provided within the wire connection portion of the socket body, the press-connecting portion capable of directly electrically connecting the terminal member to a conductor of the at least one of the wires,

wherein the other end of the two ends has a connector portion that projects into the connector housing for directly electrically connecting the terminal to the connector, and

wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting portion and the connector portion.

13. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 12,

wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted; and

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the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.